

# A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

*Learning to Make Choices for the Future of Vermont's Forests*



## *What is A Forest for Every Classroom?*



A Forest for Every Classroom (FFEC) is a year-long professional development series for educators, aimed at providing the inspiration, knowledge and skills required

to transform classroom teaching into effective and exciting place-based education.

Teachers who participate in FFEC develop their own curriculum that increases student literacy skills and fosters student understanding of and appreciation for the forested lands in their communities. These curricula integrate hands-on study of the natural and cultural resources of the local community, addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, land management/stewardship, and civics.

At the heart of the FFEC program is the belief that students who are immersed in the interdisciplinary study of their own “place” are more eager to learn and be involved in the stewardship of their communities and public lands.

## *This free workshop series offers you:*

- A multi-disciplinary, field-based exploration of important private and public forests in our region, spanning all four seasons.
- Hands-on, lively workshops presented in the forest by naturalists, loggers, forest managers, interpreters, wood industry experts, woodworkers, animal trackers, authors, and others passionate about the future of forest stewardship.
- Standards-based curriculum development support.
- Instruction and practice in the Principles and Best Practices of Place-Based Education.
- Strategies for increasing student academic achievement through place-based education.
- Fun, age-appropriate learning opportunities that translate knowledge into effective, relevant experiences for your students
- Service learning fundamentals and case studies.
- Curricula and resource materials for teaching about forest ecology, management and stewardship.
- 5 graduate credits offered through Johnson State College for participation and unit development (fee).
- A network of educators and resource specialists.
- Stipends and mini-grants provided upon implementation of your curriculum.
- Extended support and follow-up through alumni training events.



*"This course has re-kindled my soul and passion for teaching. It has made it meaningful again. I am so grateful for the vision, the inspiration, the follow-through, and the commitment and knowledge that the partners have channeled through us."*

- WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

*Thanks to the...*

- A.D. Henderson Foundation
- Ittleson Foundation
- JL Foundation
- Upper Valley Community Foundation - Wellborn Ecology Fund
- National Park Service Parks as Classrooms
- National Park Service Challenge Cost Share
- U.S. Forest Service Green Mountain National Forest

*...for their generous support in making this program possible.*

# A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

## *What is Place-Based Education?*

Place-based education is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in language arts, math, social studies, science and other subjects across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on real world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to their community, enhances students appreciation for the natural world, and creates a heightened commitment to serving as active contributing citizens. (David Sobel, *Standing Strong in my Rightful Place*, 2003)

Place-based education research has shown that students who are engaged in real-world learning within their local communities have higher literacy rates and are more likely to succeed than those who learn through a traditional textbook approach. A study by the State Environmental Education Roundtable demonstrated that when the environment is used as an integrating context, students earn higher grades and score better on standardized reading, writing and math examinations.





## Workshop Dates and Locations:

**SPRING SESSION**      **May 14 & 15, 2004** *Friday & Saturday*  
Burke Mountain Club House,  
East Burke, VT

**SUMMER SESSIONS**      **July 8 & 9, 2004** *Thursday & Friday*  
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National  
Historical Park, Woodstock, VT

**July 12-14, 2004** *Monday-Wednesday*  
Seyon Ranch, Groton State Park, VT  
*residential (housing & meals provided)*

**FALL SESSION**      **October 1 & 2, 2004** *Friday & Saturday*  
Vermont Leadership Center,  
East Charleston, VT

**WINTER SESSION**      **February 2005 TBA** *Friday & Saturday*  
Seyon Ranch, Groton State Park, VT  
*residential (housing & meals provided)*



## What will be expected of Workshop Participants?

**E**ach participating team of educators will be responsible for developing a curriculum unit that meets Vermont's

educational standards and the literacy needs of their school. Curriculum units must be based on real-world learning experiences within their local communities. Each team of teachers will develop a service-learning project that brings the school and the community together, where teachers and students learn about local forestry issues and become involved in a viable community-based project.

For more information about **A Forest for Every Classroom**, visit:  
[www.nps.gov/csi/trends/forest.htm](http://www.nps.gov/csi/trends/forest.htm)

## The Partners



**The Northern Forest Center** works to foster and develop the vitality and regional identity of the Northern Forest. It promotes awareness and understanding of community, cultural, environmental, and economic issues in the region, and support projects and networks that increase regional collaboration and citizen leadership.



**The Northeast Natural Resource Center of The National Wildlife Federation** represents NWF at the local level and conducts research, education and advocacy on a variety of conservation issues of regional significance.



**Shelburne Farms** is a 1,400-acre working farm, nonprofit environmental education organization, and National Historic Landmark whose mission is to cultivate a conservation ethic by teaching and demonstrating the stewardship of natural and agricultural resources.



**The Green Mountain National Forest** is the largest contiguous green space in Vermont, offering 375,000 acres of forested landscape as an outdoor classroom and a staff committed to educating teachers about forestry ecology, watersheds and the role of forests in watersheds.



**The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park** is the only national park to focus on conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in the United States. The park preserves and interprets a 550-acre forest in Woodstock.



**The Conservation Study Institute** was established by the National Park Service to further conservation education programs and reach a broader audience. The Institute's mission is to create opportunities for dialogue, inquiry, and life-long learning to enhance the stewardship of parks, landscapes and communities.

# A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

A stipend of \$500 is available to participants who meet all course requirements, and reflect upon and document curriculum implementation. In addition, you will be offered \$100 in resource money to support your teaching and an opportunity to apply for a \$200 mini-grant for your classroom.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Teammates applying \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator's name \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Public/private forest land available to you \_\_\_\_\_

## *About your teaching and professional development goals:*

*(Please answer the following questions on the reverse side.)*

1. How have you incorporated forest studies into your teaching in the past?
2. Please describe how participating in A Forest for Every Classroom will support your professional goals. Please mention personal or professional experiences that relate to our program.
3. Do you have any experience with service learning and in what ways do you presently use your natural and human community for your teaching?

## *Application Form*

### *You should be willing to:*

- Come as a team of teachers, with the strong support of your administrator - PLEASE PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR AS PART OF THIS APPLICATION.
- Participate in ALL workshops and summer sessions.
- Develop a forest-based teaching unit which utilizes local landscape and meets the goals of your school action plan and the state standards, exemplifying the best practices of Place-Based Education.
- Include service learning in your students' experience.
- Provide written documentation of your curriculum for possible inclusion in a model program to be disseminated nationally.

Return your completed application by APRIL 2nd.

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR ADMINISTRATOR'S LETTER OF SUPPORT.

To: Elizabeth Soper, NWF, 58 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Office: (802) 229-0560 vm 316 Fax: (802) 229-4532 [soper@nwf.org](mailto:soper@nwf.org)